THE VETERINARY RECORD

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EDITED BY WILLIAM HUNTING, F.R.C.V.S.

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EXAMINATIONS.

The address delivered by Professor Wright at the opening of the Glasgow Veterinary College, of which we publish an abstract, is deserving of the greatest consideration. Professor Wright is not a veterinarian and his arguments may therefore be accepted as impartial. No more important question can be raised thanthe best method oftesting our graduates; upon the stamp of man entering the profession depends our future position, and every one of us is interested in admitting the best man and keeping out the worst. We must do justice to ourselves, and we desire to do no injustice to the student or the public. If our examination test is not perfect we must do what we can to improve it, and every assistance afforded us must be accepted. We recognise Professor Wright as an authority, but we only accept his suggestions as deserving of consideration. "Examinations" says the lecturer, "may be regarded from three points of view; from that of the student, from that of the teacher, and from that of the public; and in the recognition of the fact that there are three interests involved lies the solution of all the difficulties attendant on the question of the proper methods to be adopted in examination." We would add a fourth interest—that of the professional body the candidate wishes to join. The veterinary profession has to consider itself, and must take care that its graduates are men who will reflect credit upon the Body Corporate which they propose to enter. With this addition we accept Professor Wright's statement of the interests concerned.

The first fault the Professor finds with our arrangements is that teachers are totally excluded from the examining Board, and the second is—the immense preponderance of "so-called *practical* men." Professor Wright assumes that we have a *written* examination; as a fact we have not, and we take it that his assumption at once hits a defect in our methods. We ought to have a written test, and doubtless the time is not far distant when we shall. In anticipation of that time his views are of importance. He says, "If it be contended that *practical* men, ought to set the written papers and examine them, then I say frankly that in my opinion they are not competent." He gives reasons for this opinion, and they are worthy of every consideration. If they are correct we must alter our methods, and so arrange that the teachers may have a hand in the preparation of the written examination. Our Charter expressly forbids teachers to examine their own students, but in the days when it was framed we had practically only one teaching school. Now it is different. We have four schools and the teachers are a large body from which it would be easy to select men who might examine, and yet have nothing to do with their own students. The Scotch teachers might act on the Board which examines English students, and the English teachers might assist to examine the students educated in Scotch schools. This would not violate the Charter, and it is worthy of practical consideration. Professor Wright does not desire that *only* teachers should examine. He says "Though I contend that the sole charge of examinations should not be entrusted to practical men, I by no means urge that they should be wholly excluded from examinations." His proposal is that the written papers should be set by teachers, and that the oral examination should be conducted by practitioners. Briefly his method of examination is stated as follows:

1. Examinations should be both written and oral.
2. Written examinations should be conducted by teachers.
3. A greater number of questions should be set than the student is required to answer.
4. The oral should be conducted by practitioners assisted by teachers.
5. The teachers should always be present at an examination, and should have the right of altering the form of question when they consider it not sufficiently clear.

In these proposals we fancy the teacher is given too prominent a position, but it may be that his assistance would be valuable. The practitioner surely knows what kind of man is desirable in the profession better than a teacher, and therefore, whilst not averse to the teacher's assistance, we hold that he should only have a secondary position on the Board, even if admitted at all.

When the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons adopt a written as well as an oral test, it is a serious question whether teachers might not be admitted with advantage so far as the setting of questions is concerned. We do not desire to prejudice the question. We merely draw attention to Professor Wright's opinions and arguments with the hope that they may receive the attention they deserve; and we should be only too pleased to give space to any contributions on the subject No possible harm can result from discussion—great good may be derived from a free ventilation of opinions.

CASES AND ARTICLES.

LABURNUM POISONING.

By Alfred Smith, M.R.C.V.S.

Cases of laburnum poisoning are so rare that the following may be of some interest to your readers :— On the morning of September 26th a messenger brought word from Col. Arkwright, of Thoby Priory, that they had a number of cattle that could not rise, and I was to see them as soon as possible; beyond this he could not say what was amiss. Upon my arrival I was shown in a field twenty-four young store cattle, all aged about fifteen months. I found four were unable to rise: several others after being made to get up would stagger on a few yards, reel about, and soon go down again. We managed to drive all but the five worst to the farmyard, but the latter had to be carried home in tumbrels. Four of those we drove home went down, and did not rise for some days. Upon closer examination I noticed, besides the paralysis, great dulness, respirations quickened, pulse both irritable and variable, temperature in all cases subnormal, generally about 99·6 F. From these symptoms I formed the diagnosis that, by some means or other, the animals had received some narcotic poison.

Upon enquiry I found that on the previous afternoon some trimmings from the garden had been emptied into an old pond hole in the pasture where these cattle were. These trimmings, upon inspection, were found to consist almost entirely of laburnum boughs, in full pod, and it was plain these animals had eaten a considerable quantity.

I administered to all a smart purgative, followed by stimulants, which I continued until action of the bowels was obtained. Notwithstanding the action of the medicine, on October 1st two died, and four others had not risen yet. Whilst up at the opening of the College on the 1st inst., and relating these cases to a friend, he suggested that I should try physostigmine, which next I did, commencing on the worst one, which I quite expected would die in any case. I injected 50 minims intravenously, the effect of which in less than a minute was most marked. The whole frame was convulsed in spasms, so much so that it had the greatest difficulty in breathing. I quite made up my mind that I had finished this case off, and, as I had a *post-mortem* to make on one that had died the previous day, I suggested to the owner, who had been watching me the whole time, that we should go and do so, thinking it would be better than standing and watching it die. Much to my surprise when returning in about twenty minutes it was perfectly quiet, sitting up on its brisket, and looking much better than it had done since it had been first taken.

Upon this result I injected intravenously 40 minims to four others, which I repeated every morning for three days, and in every case was most pleased with the effect; and at the end of this time they appeared bright and healthy enough, with the exception of the paralysis. I now commenced giving twice daily liq. strychniæ, and in a day or two, with a little assistance, one after the other were able to rise, the last one getting up on October 13th, having laid seventeen days, but now is doing as well as any of them.

THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE.

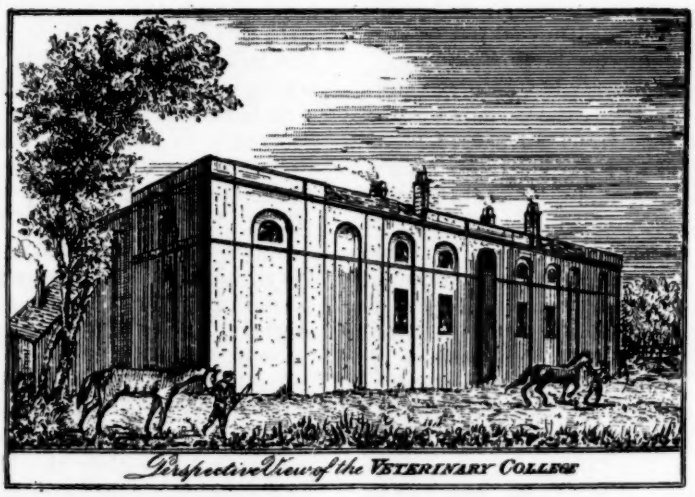
On April 8th, 1791, the meeting was held at which it was determined to found a Veterinary College in London. The Duke of Northumberland was President, and other noblemen and gentlemen subscribed liberally to give effect to the scheme. Charles Vial de St. Bel was appointed Professor to the contemplated institution, and a Committee was formed to carry out the scheme. John Hunter, Mr. Cline, Sir Joseph Banks, Dr. Crawford, and other leading members of the medical profession, gave their assistance, and very full public approbation followed.

A piece of ground covering some acres in St. Pancras was taken on a long lease from the Earl of Camden, and arrangements made for building a lecture theatre, a dissecting room, stabling for fifty horses, and a strong forge. This was only a temporary plan, for St. Bel had much grander ideas of what a college should be; he had been trained in the Government schools of France, and desired that the English school should be founded on a similar basis. His curriculum would have extended over three years, and all domestic animals would have obtained attention; but St. Bel's scheme was too large for the private efforts of his subscribers, and too far advanced for the public of his day. The stables, the forge and lecture theatre were, however, completed, and on January 1st, 1792, a course of lectures was commenced. It was not till January 1st, 1793, that the infirmary was opened for patients, and then in a few days every stall was occupied. Ten students had joined the classes, and the anatomy of the horse was studied in the dissecting room. Amongst the students were men who left a mark on the profession, and whose names are worth remembering—they were Messrs. Bloxam, Blaine, R. Laurence, Field, and Bracy Clark.

Unfortunately the money subscribed to found the College was lavishly spent, and the buildings were not completed. Difficulties arose, and subscribers who began by being over-sanguine ended by being disappointed and suspicious. This, says Bracy Clark, "was shortly after followed by an event which for a time seemed likely to terminate the misfortunes of the College, and its existence; this was no less than the death of our professor." The death of St. Bel took place in August, 1793, and the affairs of the College became gloomy indeed: creditors were pressing, and it seemed at one time that the institution must come to an end—for no one equally qualified could be found to take the place of St. Bel. We are told by Bracy Clark that "the pupils, being left without a teacher, were unable to make

any considerable progress in their studies. In this position a very generous offer was made them by several of the most celebrated professors of human anatomy and medicine in London, which was to attend their lectures free of all expense. The lecture rooms of Dr. Fordyce, Dr. Baillie, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Cruikshank, were now open to them, and most of them with much industry availed themselves of the offer."

During this interregnum the practice of the College was carried on by the elder pupils, and Mr. Richard Laurence deserves to be remembered as the individual who practically succeeded St. Bel, and remained in charge until the Governing Committee found a successor to the first principal. The financial condition of the school had reached its lowest point, and the Committee were threatened with lawsuits by the creditors. At this juncture a meeting was called, and the Earl of Morton and Lord Heathfield again gave their assistance. John Hunter also gave his influence and money, and the College was resuscitated. In 1794 the directorship was entrusted to Messrs. Moorcroft and Coleman, both of whom were surgeons, but the former had, after studying veter-



Perspective View of the VETERINARY COLLEGE

inary science in France, practised in London as a veterinary surgeon, and attained such celebrity as to bring back confidence in the College at once. For a few weeks the business of the institution was conducted to the great satisfaction of the subscribers —"the deserted College became again filled with horses"—when the sudden resignation of Moorcroft gave a shock to the struggling and, so far, unfortunate institution. Coleman was left as sole professor, and he only withdrew his resignation at the earnest request of his friends, amongst whom Sir Astley Cooper was prominent. Coleman had no practical knowledge of horses or their diseases, but he was clever and energetic, a good human anatomist, and an astute business man, with strong friends in the medical world. Writing in 1798 Mr. Bracy Clark says: "The institution now remained solely to be conducted by Mr. Coleman, from whose abilities and ingenuity the science has everything to expect; he has been able during the three years that he has been professor, not only to maintain the institution in prosperity, but has had the address, with the aid of the Committee, to procure the pecuniary assistance of Government, which now affords the institution a handsome annual supply, and places it beyond the probability of ever being destroyed on this account." In these few years, too, Professor Coleman had obtained for himself the appointment of Principal Veterinary Surgeon to the Army, and was entrusted with the selection of veterinary surgeons for the cavalry.

The College during the first ten years of its existence held a very prominent position—it was constantly before the public for some reason or other. The movement which gave it origin had hardly subsided before the death of its first professor again brought it into notice; then Coleman and Moorcroft's joint professorship and its sudden rupture; next the position given to Coleman as Chief of the Veterinary Department of the Cavalry. The books and pamphlets issued by those connected with the College also had an effect. St. Bel, Moorcroft, and Coleman, all wrote on the horse's foot and shoeing; in fact their reputation as authors depends entirely on their writings on shoes and shoeing. St. Bel, and the practice he introduced at the College, assisted in reducing the weight of shoes then used, and in checking the practice of seating shoes in the form of a saucer. He also recommended a shoe flat on the foot surface and concave towards the ground. Moorcroft, following an older authority, Osmer, advised a shoe having a good level bearing surface, but not so wide as to press on the sole, to avoid which he had it "seated"—and this form of shoe is the one most commonly used at this day. Moorcroft's essay on shoeing was a sound and practical work. Coleman's work on shoeing had one good point—he recognised the value of frog-pressure; but to this he sacrificed other necessary principles. He advised paring the soles thin, especially at the angles of the heels, and the use of a thin-heeled shoe. The effect upon the art of horse-shoeing in London, of all the attention given to the subject at the College must have been very great—whether for good or evil is not clear.

From 1791 to 1800 there is evidence of very considerable activity at the College. Students apparently went there with a determination to study, and quite a number of the earlier ones have left some record of work. Blaine. Bracy Clark, White, Percivall, Feron, Laurence, Boardman are all names of men who afterwards contributed to veterinary literature.

Coleman for a time after his appointment was apparently sole professor and teacher. John Percival was "Assistant Veterinary Surgeon to the Professor" in 1797 and perhaps some years earlier. In 1796 William Sewell, whose father was a farmer in Essex, was apprenticed to Coleman, and in 1799 passed his examination and was appointed Assistant to the Professor and Demonstrator of Anatomy.

The Examining Committee who granted certificates of proficiency to the students consisted entirely of medical men, assisted by Professor Coleman. For the first twenty years of the College, this was perhaps as good an arrangement as could be made. There were few veterinary graduates whose names would have carried much weight on a certificate, but the names of the leading men in medicine and surgery carried great weight, and gave just that connection with science which the art then so much needed. Students were taught Anatomy and Scientific principles, which gave them at any rate an immense superiority over the older practitioners with whom they had to compete.

The early teaching at the College, it must be confessed, was very limited. The horse was the only animal referred to, and one professor and an assistant had to do all the practice and teaching. Unless this had been supplemented by the magnaminous permission of leading medical teachers, for veterinary students to attend their lectures gratuitously, our pioneers would have been mere pretenders to scientific knowledge. Upon the ex-collegiate classes depended all their training in chemistry, materia-medica, and physiology.

St. Bel had started the venture with a much more extensive scheme, and with a much higher standard of the necessities of veterinary students. He was an enthusiast. Coleman was a practical man who "cut his clothes according to his cloth," and permitted no veterinary enthusiasm to outrun his judgement. He obtained financial assistance from Government, an official position for himself, and he accepted the medical assistance so kindly offered without any feeling of compunction that the school did not supply within its own walls all the students' wants.

From 1800 to 1825 very little is known of the proceedings of the Veterinary College. There were no periodicals in those days, and the staff very judiciously committed nothing to paper. We only know that the institution progressed quietly, that students entered and studied, that the practice increased, and that the Professor maintained the dignity of his position in a proper manner. In 1820 the Annual Parliamentary Grant of £1000 ceased, but the College was able to run alone, and took no harm from the withdrawal of Treasury support.

Occasional glimpses of the College are obtained from writings of old students. Thus we learn that Mr. Mayer, of Newcastle, was a student in 1811, and on joining had a ticket of admission to all the lectures at a medical school, presented to him be Professor Coleman. From attending these lectures he joined the Westminster Medical Society, and thus got the idea of starting a veterinary medical society. This he with other students founded in 1812, and their weekly meetings were held in Marchmont Street. In the second year Professor Sewell allowed himself to be nominated as President, but Coleman looked askance at the new society. In the course of another year or two the Society was admitted into the College, and Professor Coleman became patron.

In 1817 William Dick entered as a student, and has left us a glimpse of the College in two letters he wrote whilst a student, to his father. The impression is that a student had to depend greatly upon himself; Sewell was occupied by practice, and Coleman was very often away on consultations, or the business of the Army and Ordnance Department which he supervised. Dick does not seem to estimate the diagnostic powers of the staff very highly, and the treatment of animals described by him shows a practice differing very slightly from the empirical art carried on around.

In 1828 Charles Spooner and James B. Simonds were students at the College. At this time the course of study extended over one session, and few men failed to satisfy the Medical Examining Board. The students were generally sons of practitioners, farmers or farriers, but not a few came after having obtained a scientific education at a medical school.

(To be continued.)

VETERINARY SOCIETIES.

BORDER COUNTIES VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the members of this Society was held at the Bush Hotel, Carlisle, on Friday afternoon, October 9th. Mr. Howe, of Keswick, occupied the chair, and there were also present Professors Williams, Walley, and Pritchard; Messrs. Carlisle, Bell, James Bell, H. Pears, Coates, Jacob Dawson, Croudace, Donald, J. Young, Rutherford, Little, Meikle, Potts, Pender; Mr. John Armstrong (Hon. Secretary), and Mr. H. Thompson, (Hon. Treasurer), with the following visitors:—Mr. Leather, Liverpool; Mr. Burnett, Maybole; Mr. J. Hewson, Appleby; and Mr. Campbell, Kirkcudbright.

The Proposed New Charter.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, Prof. Walley read the propositions contained in the draft of the proposed new Charter of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, which had been previously issued to members of the council, and invited discussion upon them.

Mr. Rutherford said that the new charter still shut off Members from the right of being Examiners, and he was sure that the members would not submit to that. It was a short sighted measure and one that would lead to

dissatisfaction in the profession; and he wished his protest to be entered against it. There was another matter of far greater importance. Were the profession north of the Humber satisfied with the mode of representation on the council? Could the members of that society or the profession in the whole of Scotland put together make certain of getting a single member on the council if they wished to? They could not, and as a matter of fact Scotland was only represented by one gentlemen. He did not think that it would be fair to ask for territorial representation, but it was only fair that they should have a distribution of seats in proportion to the number of practitioners in the countries.

Mr. CAMPBELL, in supporting the remarks of Mr. Rutherford, said it was quite possible to divide Scotland into districts and let each district have a representative. Each school should also have a representative, and Scotland should have such a number of representatives, that, when added to the number from Ireland, they would equal the number from England. At present if they nominated a gentleman from Scotland, they had to depend for his election upon their English friends, but if they had to elect in districts, they would be able to secure a perfectly independent gentleman to represent them, and one who would be subject to no order from any clique whatever. (Laughter). He hoped that some one would call a meeting in Edinburgh and Glasgow upon the subject, and that a representation would be made to the council.

Professor WALLEY, who said he quite agreed with all that had been said, suggested that representations should be made from that society, and from all societies, to the council.

Mr. RUTHERFORD moved:—"That the proposed new charter, as drafted, has been before this society, and that the members are exceedingly disappointed that no provision has been made for the more equitable representation of the profession on the council, and pray the council to take the matter into their earnest consideration."

Mr. DONALD seconded the motion.

Professor WILLIAMS said that if an injustice was done to the members, a very great injustice was done to the examiners, and if examiners were to be excluded from the council he should not support the charter. His opinion was that there would be such opposition to this charter that they would never get a new charter within ten years.

The motion was carried and a copy of it ordered to be sent to the council of the Royal College.

NEW MEMBERS.

On the motion of Mr. YOUNG, seconded by the SECRETARY, Mr. Garnett, of Bowness-on-Windermere, was elected a member of the society.

Mr. DONALD gave notice that at next meeting he would move the election of Mr. Hewson, of Appleby, as a member of the society.

INCREASE OF THE SUBSCRIPTION.

On the motion of Mr. YOUNG, seconded by the SECRETARY, it was agreed to increase the annual subscription from 5/- to 7/6.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. THOMPSON moved that Mr. Pender, of Lockerbie, be elected President of the Society for the ensuing year. Mr. BELL seconded the motion, which was carried amid applause.

On the motion of Mr. BELL and the SECRETARY, Mr. Howe and Mr. Rutherford were appointed Vice-presidents, and Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Thompson were unanimously re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

PROFESSOR PRITCHARD ON "FIRING."

Prof. PRITCHARD then addressed the members upon the subject of "Firing"—a subject which he explained he had been instigated to bring before the profession by the manner in which the operation was recently condemned by the Editor of *Truth* and some of his correspondents, professional and otherwise. He himself was a thorough believer in the operation of firing, and he might say that he knew that there were certain maladies affecting horses' limbs in which no other treatment would bring about similar desirable results. If they asked him why, he would tell them at once that either by the amount of pressure which was imparted by the shortening or tightening of the skin, or in the reduction in the size of the skin, or from the amount of inflammation set up in the parts deeply seated underneath where the operation was performed—either from one or the other, or from both, they got an effect that a blister or a counter irritant of any other kind would not produce. There had been no end of discussion as to whether the effect of the operation was to set up a permanent or a temporary bandage; and although he was not now going to advance a definite opinion as to which of these two arguments was the correct one, he believed that the bandage was temporary as far as the skin was concerned, but that the effect of it was increased by the amount of the subcutaneous depositions which no other mode of procedure but the act of firing could bring about. Now as to the proofs in favour of firing. Let them take an ordinary curb. It was quite true that if they applied a strong blister to the skin over the surface of the curb, they might bring about, as far as lameness was concerned, the desired result; but would they be able to tell their client with as great certainty that their treatment would bring about permanent recovery from lameness, as they would be if they had fired the skin over the curb and blistered it after? As to thorough-pin, he had seen numbers of cases where the size of the enlargement had been absolutely increased by the application of blisters; and he should certainly not resort to blistering unless at the express wish of his client. On the other hand, he had fired scores of cases of bad thorough-pin and twelve months afterwards, if the lines had not been there, they would not have been able to tell that the horse had had it at all. Then as to sprained tendons or sprained suspensory ligaments, there was nothing like firing if they wanted to give the animal the best chance of recovery; and he would also say that for bony enlargements and ring-bones there was nothing equal to the action of the firing iron; here the remedy was in the deep seated inflammatory action which the operation set up, and which no other counter-irritant could set up. After mentioning a few cases in which firing had been successfully resorted to, the Professor said he thought those examples showed that they were justified in carrying out the operation, although to the inexperienced it might seem to be a very cruel mode of procedure. But although he argued that it was necessary, he was quite willing to allow that firing was most abominably abused. The practice of firing horses indiscriminately which prevailed in some parts of the country was really a disgrace. (Hear, hear). There was a notion in Ireland that an amount of strength was added to an animal by having it fired while it was young; and that he called an abuse of the operation. It was an abuse of the operation to fire an animal without the part having been properly prepared. There were many cases in which not the slightest preparation in the shape of physic or cooling measures was had recourse to, and with what result? Why they found in 50 per cent. of these cases an amount of sloughing of the skin and of subsequent blemish which might easily have been avoided. He could not help saying that firing was very often had recourse to where there could not be any possible chance

of cure. To give them an instance he would simply name side-bone. There was no possible benefit which could arise from the application of the firing-iron to side-bone that could not be effected by blistering. Firing deeply he avoided, and his advice to them was to fire their lines close together and not so deep. On no account should they be allowed to go through the skin. They would have gathered from his remarks that where other treatment would bring about the desired result he would not have recourse to firing. As to the operation itself, a fortnight spent in getting the leg into a nice, cool condition would save more than a fortnight at the end of the case, because the leg would heal much more quickly and much better. He was a great advocate of clipping the hair as closely as possible from the part upon which they were going to operate. An ordinary firing-iron should be heated in a charcoal or a wood fire, and should be brought to a white heat. As to the depth that should be fired, he did not think that any teaching could instruct a man in that. It only came as the result of practical experience, but he should advise that the skin should not be burnt deeply, and under no circumstance should the iron burn through the skin. The Professor having explained the use of a firing apparatus which has been patented by Mr. Beach, V.S., said he believed in tying horses up, certainly for a fortnight, after they have been fired. As to dressing, the only thing he applied was a small quantity of weak solution of acetate of lead; and he always allowed horses to go for a week without blistering them.

Discussion.

Prof. Williams said he quite agreed with Prof. Pritchard that firing was a necessary operation, but that the indiscriminate firing of horses was an act of great cruelty. In many cases in his experience the result of the operation had been almost magical. As to the "bandage theory" he thought himself that the skin was in time restored to its natural condition, and that question was not deserving of that consideration which was paid to it in his younger days.

Mr. Thompson endorsed Prof. Pritchard's conclusions, and said that he had frequently tried firing in cases of stifle joint, and had always been disappointed in the results.

Mr. Bell, (Carlisle): said that while he fully admitted that firing was in many cases necessary, there could be no greater disgrace upon the profession than the indiscriminate use of the iron. He had frequently fired deeply with very marked success, especially if the animal had been slightly operated upon before with no good results. There was no fear of sloughing if the limb was properly taken care of both prior to and after the operation.

Prof. Walley said that he had frequently failed in firing for ring-bone, but he had seen very good results from firing side-bone. Professor Pritchard objected to going through the skin, but he must confess that is cases of bone spavin and splint he never fired without going through the skin and the periosteum as well. As to dressing legs after firing, nothing should be put on unless the products of the firing became absolutely dry; and he quite agreed that blisters should not be put on for at least ten days, or from that to a fortnight after the operation. There was one point which he might mention, and that was that on three several occasions after firing horses about the coronet, he had had a most profuse discharge of a substance exactly resembling grease, and which had a most odious stench. A vast amount of good was derived from firing in cases of joint disease.

Mr. Pender said his experience was in favour of light firing in the close lines.

Mr. Rutherford said that his experience amongst heavy draught horses was strongly in favour of deep firing.

Mr. Carlisle said that a good deal depended upon the case as to the depth they should fire, but if they had a very bad case they might depend upon it they would do no good unless they went through the skin. The use of the iron was cruel unless it was absolutely necessary, but in some cases its use was absolutely necessary. Firing was the oldest operation that the veterinary surgeon performed, and it had done more good than any other operation.

Mr. Leather said that he agreed with Prof. Pritchard in the main, but he differed from him as to the necessity and benefit of firing in cases of side-bone. The French were very fond of firing, and one of the veterinary surgeons in the employment of the French Government told him that they preferred the horses fired in the hocks and limbs before buying them for Army purposes.

The President said they had had various opinions expressed at that meeting, but as long as there were veterinary surgeons they would have different opinions. His own experience was that firing was a very effective mode of curing disease.

On the motion of Prof. Williams, seconded by Prof. Walley, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Prof. Pritchard for his excellent lecture.

Prof. Pritchard, after acknowledging the vote, said that in cases of splint he always burnt down on to the bone; and in cases of curb it was his invariable practice to use a pointed iron. With all deference to the opinion of Mr. Rutherford, he thought that in cases of sprained tendons in heavy horses they would find that the same beneficial results would follow from deep firing without absolutely cutting through the skin. He had had recourse to firing in cases of diseased joints and where very severe lameness arose from punctured foot; but in the latter case he found that a very severe blister over the coronet had a very beneficial result.

A vote of thanks to the President brought the meeting to a close.

NATIONAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION,

Meeting at Doncaster, July 1891, Prof. Axe in the chair.

INFLUENZA.

By Principal Williams, New Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. W. Hunting:—In opening a discussion I think one generally criticises the paper presented, and that is what I propose to do. First, as to the history of this disease. It has frequently been pointed out that it has occurred at various periods in the different centuries; it has not, I think, been pointed out that any inference should be drawn from that, but from the small amount of historical knowledge that I possess it seems to me that there is a very important inference to be drawn from the dates of these outbreaks. You will find as a rule that they have occurred immediately ofter some of the big European wars; in other words, the history of influenza is that it, like every other contagious disease, has followed the movements of men and animals, and that seems to be one of the greatest arguments in favour of its being spread by contagion. You will find that in 1714—that is, during the Marlborough wars—it was brought over here; again, during the Wellington wars it was brought over here. From 1815 downwards was a time of peace, but to account for the outbreak of 1836, as usual, we find that, wanting to interfere with what was going on abroad, we sent a contingent to Portugal, and the result was we had influenza here. Looking over these outbreaks again

you find that the reports describing the symptoms of this disease are exactly analogous to the recent outbreaks that we have had, so that there seems to be a direct continuance of a specific disease with definite symptoms from the earliest times. It is rather important to know the date of the origin of these outbreaks, but that is an extremely difficult question, and we must beware of hypotheses framed upon this basis. You will find that Prof. Williams, in describing the outbreak in America, says that it was first seen in Canada in October. Dr. Fleming has said that it was first seen in September. The two English authorities both agree that 1872 was the year in which it broke out in America, but an American authority says it occurred between 1870 and 1872. How are we to reconcile these different dates? We have recently had a pretty stiff outbreak in London, as you have had in other towns. Can any man say when the first case occurred? I have seen influenza now for some years in London. I am sure I cannot tell you when I first saw it, and if that is so you are in an extremely difficult corner when you come to answer a question that is asked in this paper. If you do not know the time of the first case, how do you know that it suddenly arose? If there have been one or two cases that we have looked upon as common colds this week, and next week we have it all over the town, then one set of authorities who hold opinions about the nature of the disease say "Oh! look at the sudden outbreak, it occurred all over London in one week." Not at all; there were dozens of cases the week before, but nobody noticed them, thinking that they were common colds. How are you going to recognise influenza the first time that you see it? The author quotes the statement made by an American Veterinary Surgeon, that "During the month of July, 1872, a horse had been put to grass at Partridge Island, in the Bay of Fundy. This island is three miles distant from the city. No other horse had been near the island from the date of its landing up to the time of the outbreak in St. John's, N.B., and on the 15th or 16th October, which was only two or three days before the first case was reported in this city, the horse on the island was affected." How do they know it was not two or three days after? Whenever you find a case of this sort which mysteriously appears and it is held up as an isolated case, you have always the same history, that it appeared in the town within a few days. What is the inference to be drawn? It appears in Edinburgh a day or two after it has been seen on a Midlothian farm. It appears in New York a day or two after it has been seen in the Bay of Fundy. What is the natural inference! Why, that it had been in the neighbouring big town, where there were a thousand horses, a week before and had been carried over in some way. We are told by the author that a peculiar distinction which separates influenza from other diseases is, that it is not spread along the line of traffic. Well, I must simply meet that with a direct negative. If you buy horses from a dealer hardly one of them escapes. The new horses in a large establishment are the first attacked. What about the line of traffic? We are told by another authority that you send a healthy horse from a healthy district into another district and he develops influenza. How are we to account for that? Are there railway trucks? How did he get there? Is it a mysterious thing that a horse passing through a railway truck that has had other horses in it for weeks, should develop a disease which is not only contagious, but very contagious; in short influenza behaves as do all other contagious diseases. As far as I know there is no reason to belive that any contagious disease can arise spontaneously, and if so, there is only one cause for the origin of influenza, and that is, contagion. How it spreads is sometimes difficult to trace; but surely the fact that in one case out of ten thousand it is difficult to trace is a very weak argument to support the assertion that it arises spontaneously. Nobody dreams that weeds grow on the side of a road without having grown from seed, and why in the world should you suppose that a specific disease arises spontaneously because in some one case out of 9,000 or 10,000 you cannot trace its origin? Prof. Williams does not go so far as that. He attempts to sit on two stools; and you know what generally happens to that man—he comes to grief between them. Prof. Williams trims in between the contagionist and the spontaneitist, and I think he gets into a most awful predicament. He assumes that you have a specific germ in this disease, but that it is only specific on rare occasions, that owing to some perfectly indefinite and gratuitous conditions which nobody knows anything apout, this germ takes on virulency on Wednesday, but on the Thursday is a perfectly harmless object. That is about the veriest hypothesis ever heard of, and I do not know one single fact upon which it is based. On the other side, I do not know that amongst veterinary authorities there is any exception to the view that the disease is contagious, and there are only a few exceptions to the statement that it is always contagious. I see nothing remarkable in the rapid spread of a contagious disease when it has a short period of incubation. Then, as to the vast area affected. No doubt where you have connection by railway you have at once a large area affected. Suppose, for instance, we have an outbreak of influenza at Horncastle Fair, and it is a very contagious disease, is it not extremely possible that there is no town in England which is not directly or indirectly, through its horses, connected with Horncastle Fair every year? The only wonder is that it does not spread more rapidly and extend over a wider area. The author speaks of the "apparently simultaneous manner" in which it appears. The word "apparently" only wants a note of interrogation after it, and I think that is answered. Then, as to its occurence in isolated places. Well, they have to prove the isolation, and I am not going to acknowledge places like the island in the Bay of Fundy, when the disease is spread like wildfire a mile or two away in a large town where there are hundreds of horses. It would occupy too much time, besides which I do not know much about bacteriology, to go into the question of the organism which causes it. The Professor merely states that he finds a micrococcus in every case. Well, you may do that, and, after all, the micrococci have nothing to do with it. We want a great deal more than finding a mirococcus in a disease to prove that the micrococcus has anything to do with the origin of the disease. It is a good sized micrococcus too, for I notice the paper says they average about 1/2400th of an inch. That is a big organism! Then he tells us that there are several examples of the so-called spontaneous development of infectious diseases, and he takes as his example tetanus and anthrax. Spontaneous generation of anthrax! If there is one single disease on the face of this earth in which the bacteriologist has up to the present time conclusively proved his point, I suppose it is anthrax. I have not much to say about symptoms, and still less about treatment; for it does not matter much how you treat ordinary influenza. We treat them differently but we get about the same proportion of recoveries and mortalities. Each of us, of course, cures more than our neighbours. I do not believe that there are many symptoms evidenced *post mortem* after influenza, unless you have some local complications or unless you had some disease to begin with besides infiuenza. This bears upon the mortality, and if I have the misfortune to treat in a stable three cases of influenza, one of them having heart disease to begin with, and another having been worked after he has had the disease, my mortality is no doubt two out of three, or about 70 per cent. In short, the statements as to mortality are not worth the paper they are written on unless we have a great deal told us

about every case. The Professor has differentiated between three types—the catarrhal type, the pneumonic type, and "pink eye." I am inclined to believe that he is right. I have recognised all these three, but in practice it is not very easy to separate them. How am I going to separate a case of catarrhal fever with lung complications from contagious pneumonia? I recognise contagious pneumonia simply because I find in some stables a prevalence of it; and I recognise it for another reason, that the symptoms arise in a horse that has not been exposed to change snd damp, but which stands in a stable amongst all these other sick ones and develops shiverings and pneumonia. I certainly do confess I fail to recognise from any clinical observation the difference between one pneumonia and another. How can we recognise a contagious pneumonia from any other pneumonia? I have tried, and I have read about it, and I am no further forward. I have read a paper and a discussion which followed at the Midland V.M.S., in which there was an attempt at differentiation, but it would not bear analysis for one moment. It is very easy to put a little more emphasis on one symptom than on another, but it generally happens that Nature unfortunately emphasises some symptom that the book does not and so reliance on books is unsafe. It has been recognised in this country, and by Prof. Williams himself, that contagion is a cause of pneumonia. Professor Robertson recognised contagion as a cause of pneumonia. In 1884 Mr. Lambert distinctly said that he recognised a form of contagious pneumonia, so that it is not necessary for us to go to the French or the Germans to find out that such a thing exists, and a paper that absolutely ignores these British authorities is hardly fair to Englishmen and Scotchmen. It is stated that contagious pneumonia is generally accompanied by pleurisy and effusion into the chest. It may be so, but in the cases where I have had the most reason to believe that it originated in contagion I found no pleurisy. I believe in Germany contagious pneumonia is supposed to end frequently in stinking breath or putrid condition. I have not been able to trace any connection between contagion as a cause and stinking or putrid pneumonia as a result. I wish I was able to differentiate in this way, and to say when I get a case of pneumonia whether it is contagious or not, especially at the commencement of an outbreak, because I should then naturally isolate that animal; but until I learn how to diagnose the contagious form from the other I have no way of knowing until the disease has spread.

Mr. Wolstenholme:—I wish to point out a fact made all the more prominent by the last speaker, as to how are we to reconcile the dates given by different men. I notice that Prof. Williams makes certain remarks as to the last outbreak, which, he says, "seems to have appeared in London, Leeds, Manchester, and Edinburgh, in October, 1890." If I remember correctly, a brother practitioner in Manchester, speaking simply for himself, stated in *The Veterinary Journal* that he had not seen the pink eye in Manchester before about October, 1890. Now, speaking for myself, coming from Manchester, I had a very fair outbreak of it in October, 1889, that is to say, in one stud we had 54 cases, out of which four died from October, 1889, to January, or February, 1891. That is the only point I wish to mention as to the discrepancy in dates. The same thing was noticed in the local press of 1889.

Mr. Hopkin:—As reference has just been made to an article I wrote on the recent outbreak, I wish to say I believe we had two separate outbreaks, and that the 6th of October was the date on which I saw the first case of the last outbreak. It was separate from that which took place twelve months before. We have some few cases left, but it has lost its virulence, and shows no tendency to spread. Atmosphere undoubtedly plays an important part, and an epidemic spreads in various directions, depending upon the quarter from which the wind comes, east winds being most favourable to its spread and development. The term influenza is misleading; it covers a multitude of diseases. At least three separate diseases are included under the term—catarrhal fever, epizootic cellulitis, and epizootic pleuro-pneumonia. I am inclined to regard the last outbreak of so-called "pink eye" as analogous to the prevailing influenza in human beings (though not transmissible), and which the medical profession are classing as a malarial fever. The varied symptoms no doubt depending upon the part of the system affected by the poison—it is undoubtedly infectious.

Mr. Rutherford:—I have met with this disease more or less all my professional life. I believe that it spreads very largely in accompanying movements of men and animals, and that the diseases of the lower animals marked by fever of a contagious and infectious type are almost invariably accompanied by fevers of a similar type in man; such, at any rate, has been my experience. I agree with the author, and I do not agree with Mr. Hunting, as to its spreading modes. I think every animal the subject of influenza becomes in itself a centre of disease, and that it is entirely a matter of chance, depending on surrounding circumstances as to whether a sporadic instance to begin with may not produce a very wide outbreak. I think all contagious fevers have been shown to spread very largely by atmospheric waves, the atmosphere travelling in currents taking up the germs and spores of disease, disseminating them rapidly and widely, localising the disease in different centres very much more rapidly than could be done by animals, even in these days of railway carriage. I also think once a case occurs in a stable that there you have the two forces at work. You have not only each case in itself becoming a centre capable of disseminating the disease to its neighbour, but capable of producing it in the atmosphere. How else can you account for its sudden disappearance sometimes? I hold that it disappears because the air currents have moved it on in in some other direction, not because the material on which it can live, and on which bacteriologists frame their theories, has died out. There is one thing which to my regret has been entirely omitted, and to me, as a city practitioner meeting with disease very extensively in large stables, it is a very important one—namely, once it occurs in a stable how are you going to get rid of it and prevent it, if possible, passing to others? It would be no use to undertake discussion of this subject unless you believe that it is capable of being passed to others. The plan I have hiterto adopted has been in every instance to insist upon the isolation of all infected animals, and I allow no contact either with other horses or with the attendants on sick and infected horses. I insist upon the abundant admission of air through the stables, a free use of disinfectants, and free and constant washing day by day of the walls and surroundings of the stables. I think however, the most important thing of all is to attend to the bedding; and in these days of patent beddings, moss litters, and other beds of that description, I think my experience will enable me to say that in those stables where such things are used the disease will hang about for a longer time than it will in other stables where they are not used. Moss bedding I look upon as being a most dangerous bedding to use in the case of pink eye, and I say that also with reference to the disease which the author refers to as contagious pneumonia of the horse. Sawdust in my opinion forms the best bedding, and in the absence of sawdust, straw, moved every day, and very little of it, because as a rule the patients do not lie down until they become convalescent. I also recommend extra food, and the administration daily of two ounces of hypo sulphate of soda by way of a prophylactic.—("How ad-

ministered?")—In the water; it is very soluble and tasteless. Then with regard to the treatment the author very ingeniously says that the less medicine that is used the better. Well, I had the curio.ity to total up the number of things which he recommends, and they came to a dozen. After all, the medicines required in a simple case are very few indeed. The simple cases are not the cases which tax the ability of the practitioner. It is when you get the disease in the stables where the surroundings are of the very worst character, and horses are not in a condition to resist it. Where you get the disease in a stable where the surroundings are good and the horses are in good condition, you have no right to lose any cases; it is no credit to a man to be able to say he has saved all his cases, because as a matter of fact, if you simply give them plenty of fresh air they get better themselves. I have attended all sorts, and I say positively the conditions are different, and it is when you come to attend horses under conditions the opposite of good that the real treatment of this disease begins. What is the treatment, and more particularly as regards the use of stimulants? You get a lot of hard-worked horses sent into stables. The ventilation is defective, they are damp, the horses are in poor condition, the feeding is inferior. What can you expect from a disease of this remarkably depressing and devitalising character? You must expect a large mortality, and in some of these stables we have had a large mortality—an alarming mortality—for the first few days, because they were not many hours in the stable before they were dead, in spite of all that was done, simply because they were dead before they came in—worked off their feet. But if they are not worked off their feet, you get an old horse blind in both eyes, with his eye-lids swollen, resting first on one limb and then on another, with a pulse almost imperceptible, with ears and limbs cold, then I say that that horse wants stimulants. I say, if you wait till reaction takes place you will probably have to cart him away next morning; and hence I say, with all deference to the Professor, in a very large majority of cases a stimulant is imperatively called for—alcoholic stimulant and support, milk, gruel, and carbonate of ammonia. Then as to the statement that the Professsr makes about giving carbonate of ammonia in balls, that may be very good practice for a man who can see all his cases himself, but if he has to trust to the foreman of stables to give medicine, I say it is a very reprehensible way of giving medicine, because the probabilities are that half the balls will break in his mouth, and then you put the horse off his feed altogether. I almost invariably give carbonate of ammonia in water, and the horse will drink it very freely up to two or three drams to the gallon. In this disease I have administered nearly all the medicine in the pail in the drinking water. With regard to shutting up public water-troughs I will say this, at one time I took a peculiar stand upon this matter. I thought it was better to allow the horses the free use of water simply from a humanitarian point of view, but I have since thought that the public water-troughs and the private water-troughs of a stable ought to be shut up whenever influenza makes its appearance, not because there is any danger of the disease spreading through the stomach, but because it prevents that actual contact and that re-breathing of each other's breath, which must and does take place at the water-troughs.

Mr. Hunting (Sen.):—Reference has been made to the difference in treating disease in horses that are in admirable condition, and in horses that are in poor condition, and it has been implied that those in very good condition are very much more easily cured than those in poor condition. I think the last speaker also referred to the difficulty of treating colliery horses, which are probably the most hard-worked animals in Christendom.

Mr. Rutherford:—Large coal contractors, I said not colliery.

Mr. Hunting (Sen.):—A very curious circumstance occurred in the North of England, which I should like to mention. Probably there are no horses in the kingdom kept in better condition and more carefully groomed than those possessed by a large establishment in Newcastle; and yet they lost out of a stud of some 300 as many as 59. Now, we have also horses that work not 12 hours a day, but 20 hours a day by the hundred, and the whole work of these poor animals is governed by piecework. These 300 well fed, well groomed, and carefully worked animals lost 59 of their number, and these other poorer animals—equally well fed, I admit, but in very much thinner condition as far as weight and fat on their bones was concerned—gave the following results: In a stud of 446 we had 82 cases, and there were two deaths, one horse and one pony. The first horse took it and died in twelve hours; one of the ponies took it the same day, was taken out against orders, and fell dead at work. That is two out of 82 cases. No. 2 was a stud of 80, 20 had it and no deaths; No. 3 a stud of 290, 62 had it and no deaths; No. 4 260, 27 had it and no deaths; No. 5 150, 22 had it and no deaths; No. 6 140, 34 had it and no deaths; No. 7 130, 32 had it and no deaths; No. 8 200, 69 had it and no deaths; No. 9 160, 12 had it and no deaths; No. 10 180, 34 had it and no deaths; and lastly, out of a stud of 70 horses, 28 had it and no deaths. Now, I know that my friends, who treated the animals where the loss was so great, are as competent men, and as careful men as exist in our profession. Unquestionably they had it in a more malignant form than we had it, and probably less means of perfect isolation than we had. The fact is, in one case you have a malignant outbreak, in another case you have a milder form. The fever runs high for 24 or 26 hours, you have the closed eyes, rapid breathing, and loss of appetite; you get the horse into a cold box, let him have gentle exercise and good nursing, and your case is better in three days. It is no use to talk about one man's treatment being the cause of the cure over another's; it is because there is a different disease in the one case to that in the other. One instance happened that I think is worth my while to bring before you, because probably a great number of practitioners have not the same opportunity of doing just exactly as they like with cases as I have. I therefore have a great advantage over many practitioners. We had a most malignant outbreak at a colliery, especially amongst the bank horses. Amongst these there were two horses, one a very old one about 17 years old, and the other five or six years old. The 17-year-old horse had no appetite; he was filled up from flank to flank with effusion, and with one of his legs as big as three or four. The difficulty was how to get him moved and how to get him to eat. He was got out into a paddock and left there for two or three days, being taken into the box at night. The other horse had enlarged legs and great effusion into the prepuce, filling the whole space from flank to flank. We put him into the paddock two or three times a day for a day or two, and he recovered. I have done this in dozens and dozens of cases since that time, and in every case *exercise* has been the salvation of my animal. I believe in isolation. Where we have our stables 200 yards apart, scarcely a single instance has there been of disease resulting from infection. It is no use to put horses that are diseased 100 yards apart, and then allow your head horse-keeper or any living soul to go from one stable to another, or use the same brushes or curry combs, or sacks to convey their food, or pails for their water. If they are not *absolutely isolated* you might just as well do nothing; but with perfect isolation I would almost stake my existence that if the horses are 100 yards apart you would never get any infection. That is my experience over many thousands of cases.

(To be continued).

GLASGOW VETERINARY COLLEGE.

Opening of the Session.

The introductory lecture at the Glasgow Veterinary College was delivered on the 21st ult., at the College, Buccleuch Street, by R. P. Wright, Esq., F.H.A.S., Professor of Agriculture, Glasgow.

From it we extract the following.—It is thirty years ago since Professor McCall. then an unknown young practitioner lectured through a whole winter session to his first class of three students, and now this College is everywhere known as one of the most successful in the kingdom ; its attendance of students averages about 120, and last year, as you are aware, its Principal was accorded the highest honour that it is in the power of the veterinary profession to bestow—in being elected President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. That is what may be achieved by the proper exercise of such high qualities of character and capacity as are possessed by Professor McCall ; and it forms an example, gentleman, which, rightly considered and rightly applied, may be of more value to you than the learning you will acquire during your whole course of study at this College. And now, gentleman, I turn to the consideration of a subject that is always of deep interest to teachers and to student, viz. that of examinations ; It is a subject of the greatest importance to veterinary students, because an examination forms the gateway through which they must pass to the practice of their profession ; and many there be who approach that entrance who never pass through. To the majority of agricultural students it has not the same vital interest, for to those of them who purpose devoting themselves to the practice of farming the knowledge they acquire is of much more value to them than the diploma, which merely certifies its possession. To all teachers the subject is of the first importance. because the credit and the reputation of a teacher depend largely on the success of his students, and apart from that consideration, there is no teacher worthy of the name who does not take a warm interest in the progress of the young men for whose education he is in part responsible.

First of all, then, it is necessary to take note of the object for which examinations are instituted. Examinations are held primarily for the purpose of ascertaining the knowledge and capacity of the student, and in certain circumstances the test is applied merely in order that the deserving student may receive some public recognition and reward for his meritorious work. In other cases the examinations are held rather for the protection of the public, and they afford a guarantee that the successful candidates possess sufficient qualifications for the proper practice of their profession. In all cases the examination tests in some measure also the proficiency of the teacher. In the ordinary examinations in Board Schools, for example, for which payment on results is obtained, the visit of the inspector and the report on the examination, are commonly regarded as tests of the efficiency of the teacher quite as much as of the progress made by the children. In the examinations for the ordinary degree of Master of Arts in the Universities, or in the examinations in agriculture of the Royal Agricultural Society or the Highland Society, seek merely the honour of passing, and are satisfied with the public proof of ability and acquirement. But in the medical examinations of the Universities, and in the examinations of the Veterinary Colleges, the cousideration which must overweigh all others is the protection of the public,

The examiners for medical or veterinary diplomas have to do their duty to the teacher and to the students, but they have above all to discharge a public duty. Their position is one of responsibility, and they owe it alike to their own sense of justice and to those who have entrusted them with such powers, that they allow no candidates to succeed who have not in their judgment acquired such competence as will enable them to treat with sufficient skill all common diseases in man or in the lower animals.

Examinations may, therefore, be regarded from three points of view : from that of the student, from that of the teacher, and from that of the public ; and in the recognition of the fact that there are three interests involved lies the solution of all the difficulties attendant on the question of the proper methods to be adopted in examination. No method, in my opinion, can be satisfactory in which these several interests are not fully represented and guarded.

Let us see how examinations are actually conducted for the veterinary and agricultural diplomas, and how the methods adopted affect these various interests. In the examinations of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons twenty gentleman are employed. No veterinary teachers or professors are allowed to take any part in the examination, and the duties are at present entrusted to five lecturers from institutions other than veterinary, and to fifteen veterinary practitioners who are not teachers. There are two points of great importance raised by the constitution of this body of examiners. The first is the total exclusion of teachers, and the second is the immense preponderance of practical men—so-called—on the Board. (I use throughout the terms "practical men" and "teachers" to make a convenient distinction, but I decline to regard as a satisfactory teacher or examiner, either in agricultural or veterinary science, one who is not practical.) In agricultural circles the opinion has been expressed also, in some quarters, that the practical element ought to be more largely represented in the examinations for agriculture for the Highland Society's diploma, and that practical men rather than teachers should set and value the written papers ; and therefore, both to veterinary and agricultural students, the question of the true functions to be assigned to practical men in examinations is one of present interest.

The object aimed at in the employment of practical examiners is certainly commendable. It is well to impose some safeguard against the instruction being made too purely theoretical. It is every way desirable that the training of students should be as far as possible practical, and that they should be filled with the kind of knowledge that will be of direct use to them in life. In the absence of ladies, we will all agree that a young lady who has learned to cook, to sew, and to darn, has done more to fit herself for the proper discharge of domestic duties than if she had learned to speak French, and to play on the piano and violin. In the same way it is well to ensure that the instruction given to students should be fitted to be of ready practical use. But that result appears to me to be very well secured by the plan that has been hitherto followed by the Highland Society. In their examination in agriculture the teacher sets the written paper and values the answers, while the practical examiners conduct the oral examination. The result depends, first of all and properly, on the written paper; but the oral examination ensures the detection of any candidate whose acquaintance with the subject is of a purely theoretical character, and no one ought to be able to pass who has not a competent knowledge.

But if it be contended that practical men, either in farming or veterinary practice, or in any other department of learning, ought to set the written papers and examine them, then I say frankly that in my opinion they are not competent to do so. I speak generally, of course, there are doubtless exceptions ; and I speak with all due respect for their ability ; and I do not doubt that there may be practising in the ranks of all professions abler and better men than those who are teaching.

In the first place the knowledge of practical men is, as a rule, confined in too narrow a groove to fit them to be examiners. It is the inevitable tendency of practice to

reduce the volume of knowledge to what is absolutely necessary to meet the exigencies of every-day life in a limited sphere. Whatever may have been at one time known that has not been found serviceable in daily life becomes quickly forgotten. Within its own limits the knowledge of the practical man is minute and precise, but its range lies within boundaries too narrow for the adequate examination of a student. And if the practical man knows thoroughly and accurately what he has to do with in his daily practice he is apt at the same time to become too positive and dogmatic, and he is incapable of risking sufficient allowance for circumstances and conditions that may have a real existence, though they do not happen to have fallen within the scope of his own observation. The practice of teaching, on the other hand, has certainly the effect of opening the mind to take a comprehensive view of all the parts and aspects of a science. The teacher has to go over his whole subject year by year, and of necessity he touches sections of it that may very rarely come under the notice of a practitioner, and he is necessarily familiar, as the practitioner cannot be, with many directions and details on which a student ought to be examined. There are here to-day a number of gentlemen who are accustomed to write and to speak in public every day of their lives. In the use of the English language they may be called thoroughly practical men, for it is their daily business to use it. But how many of them are there who would be competent to become for one day in the year inspectors of schools, and to take up two classes of boys in standards five and six, to examine them thoroughly on English grammar and syntax. I doubt if there be one who would be willing to attempt it. In all professions the range, and in some respects the accuracy, of the knowledge possessed by the practitioners of an art become distinctly less than what is held by the teacher. In the medical profession, who would think that the country doctor would make as good an examiner as the eminent gentlemen who are at once its ablest practitioners and its most distinguished teachers. In precisely the same position do you stand in the veterinary profession, and the regulations as to examiners, by which I find that there are five examiners who are teachers and fifteen examiners who are practitioners but not teachers, are in my judgment based on an entirely erroneous idea of the qualifications required.

But there is another reason why practitioners do not make the best examiners. Progress in all departments of learning is being made at present at such a rapid rate that it is difficult even for a teacher to keep himself abreast of all the advances that are being made, while to the practical man, engrossed in his daily business and immersed in many cases, it is simply impossible. As a matter of fact, most men as they arrive at a certain age become unwilling, as they are often unable, to assimilate new ideas and to adopt new discoveries. Men in practical life become so wedded to long-established customs and practices that they will not readily change them for new and improved methods. But the teacher of science, by the very nature of his work, is led to seek for and to welcome all new discoveries, and it is his bounden duty to send out his students into the world equipped with the latest and best knowledge that his time affords. But when the old-fashioned practitioner, grounded in the faith of his obsolete practice, confronts the student who comes before him full of youthful enthusiasm for the latest methods, it is not surprising that the result should be often so unsatisfactory.

There remains, however, a better reason than any yet given why written examinations should be entrusted to teachers rather than to practical men. The examination of students is itself an art, and like any other art it cannot be efficiently done without practice. The mere setting of questions is not without difficulty. Even experienced examiners sometimes set questions that can only be understood by students trained in their own classes, and that are quite unintelligible to students educated by other professors. More difficult still than the setting of the papers is the task of assigning a correct value to the answers. Not only is it necessary to know the subject, but insight, judgment, and skill are required in order to arrive at a right decision either from written or oral answers on the capacity and acquirements of a student. I hold the strong conviction that teachers are the only capable examiners, because they have in their class work the regular and constant practice in examining students that is as essential to perfection in this as in any other art. Just as the horse-dealer is the best judge of horses, and the cattle-dealer of bullocks, so does the teacher become the shrewdest judge of students. No inherent capacity can fully atone for the want of the requisite training and experience. To excel in the examination of students requires special skill, special knowledge, special practice; and these are only to be found combined in a teacher. Inasmuch, therefore, as the veterinary examination is conducted by examiners, of whom only five out of twenty are engaged in teaching, I do not hesitate to offer an emphatic opinion that the system is only erroneous in principle, and that it can never be expected to operate with fairness and success either to students or their instructors.

But though I contend that the sole charge of examinations should not be entrusted to practical men, I by no means urge that they should be wholly excluded from examinations. In that respect the method of examination followed for many years by the Highland Society in the examinations for its diploma in agriculture appears to me to be a very admirable one. In that examination the papers are set by a professor of agriculture, and the answers are valued by him, and no doubt the result of the examination depends chiefly, and rightly, on the written paper. The oral examination of the students is then conducted by practical farmers, and it is sufficient to show whether the student has any real acquaintance with the subject, or whether he has simply succeeded in writing a good paper by sheer force of cramming. The written examination tests the fullness, the completeness, and the accuracy of the student's knowledge; the oral examination discovers whether that knowledge is real, and whether the candidate is familar with farming operations, and it prevents the passing of anyone whose acquaintanae with farming is purely theoretical. So far that is a model method of examination which places the functions of the teaching and the practical examiner in their true relation, and secures the utmost fairness and efficiency in the examination.

But if teachers are to be examiners, the question arises whether they ought to be permitted to examine their own students. One reply only is possible. In the public interest it is essential that all examinations for diplomas should be conducted by independent examiners, as is done in the examinations for your veterinary diploma.

The system of the examination of students by their own teachers must be condemned on the ground that it fails to offer any safeguard to the public interest; that it presents no adequate barrier to the success of insufficiently qualified candidates, and that it affords no test of the merit of the instruction given. The teacher is left free from control or restraint except in so far as these are supplied by his own conscience and judgment, and the one may be very elastic, and the other very weak.

We have seen that the public interest is secured by the method of independent examination, but we have not yet considered how this system affects the candidates and their teachers. On the whole it is a fair method to students, but it has one or two disadvantages. In the first place, the result of one or more years' work is tested solely by a single examination, conducted by an examiner who is wholly ignorant of the general character

and ability af the candidate. Very meritorious and competent candidates sometimes fail to pass a final examination through nervous excitement, disturbance to the health, or other accidental circumstance; and on the other hand, very indifferent students by some freak of fortune occasionally pass with flying colours. It will occasionally happen that a very indifferent student will be examined on the only things he happens to know, while a well-read and well-informed student may be examined on the very parts of the subject with which he is least familiar. In class examinations frequently repeated the effects of such accidental variations do not affect the final result, and the best man always comes to the front. An outside examiner, however, can only judge by the single examination, and he can make no allowance for a temporary failure, whereas it is probable that his teacher, knowing the ordinary merit of the candidate, would be disposed to judge him rather by the general average of his work than by the result of the one examination.

Another difficulty about independent examinations is that questions are frequently put which students cannot understand. I have already referred to this as an objection to the employment of practical examiners. But even professional teachers and examiners often set questions in such a manner that students well acquainted with the subject are quite at a loss to know what the examiner wants. Every examiner asks questions from his own point of view, and that may be a very strange one to students trained under another teacher. Some examiners appear to think it their duty to mislead the students, and deliberately draw up papers of questions that are really puzzles, and the difficulty is not in the answering of the question, but in knowing what answer is wanted. But there is still another difficulty, and a more serious one, connected with independent examinations. In every science there are disputed questions, and high authority may be quoted in favour of very diverse views. Every teacher naturally and rightly seeks to impress on his own students the belief that he himself holds. But if the examiner holds a contrary view, and if he choose to regard the difference of opinion as a vital error, the student who comes before him is wholly without defence, and it is commonly believed that students frequently fail to pass examinations for this reason and no other.

On this matter it seems to me that the duty of examiners is perfectly clear. As far as possible they should avoid asking questions on disputed topics, or the questions should be so framed that the point of difficulty need not be touched. But as a matter of fact questions are, and will continue to be set on disputed points. Practical men are the greatest offenders in this respect, because their choice of subjects is smaller, and because their attention will have been most closely directed to a subject that has been widely discussed. If the disputed point must be touched, there remains then one plain duty for the examiner. He is bound to accept any view correctly stated by the student, provided it is a view that is held by any recognised authority in the profession. He has no right to refuse a pass because the student expresses an opinion different from his own.

It would seem, then, that even the method of independent examination is not without its drawbacks, and it may be asked whether a perfect system is attainable? I shall briefly describe a method that seems to me to fulfil pretty well all the required conditions.

1. Examinations should be both written and oral. That is the method almost universally followed, and it is the best.

2. The written examinations ought to be conducted by independent examiners, and they ought to be teachers of the subject, and accustomed to examination work.

3. In the written papers a greater number of questions ought to be set than the student is required to answer. This is the practice followed by the Science and Art Department, and it allows a proper margin for variation in the teaching and for variety in the individual aptitude and liking for certain sections of a subject. It gives a certain wholesome freedom to teachers, and prevents their being tied down with absolute and crushing rigidity to a prescribed course. It is a plan that ought to be more commonly adopted in open examinations.

4. The oral examination ought to be conducted by the same examiners, but they should be assisted by practical examiners, to whom the major duty of conducting this part of the examination should be assigned.

5. The teachers of the students ought to be present during both the oral and the written examination, and they should have the right to ask that an explanation be given of any question in the examination that appears to them obscure, and should also have the right of altering the form of questions in the oral examination that are not put with sufficient clearness.

These regulations dispose, I think, of all the objections that can be taken to the method of independent examination. If the questions are obscure the teacher is there to demand an explanation, and if the views or the methods are condemned the teacher is there to hear the condemnation. The written examination is efficient because it is conducted by independent and experienced teachers; the oral examination is efficient because it is conducted by practical experts; the interests of the student and his teacher are protected by the presence of the latter; and the public right in a fair and a thorough examination is secured by the appointment of the independent examiners. Thus all interests affected are adequately protected, and the necessary conditions of a fair examination appear to be fully attained.

At the conclusion of the address the medals and certificates were presented to the successful students of last session.

EXTRACTS AND NOTES.

CHARGE OF CRUELTY AGAINST A VETERINARY SURGEON.

At the Llandudno Police Court, October 19th, before Dr. Bold Williams and Mr. Elias Jones, Mr. F. Booth, veterinary surgeon, Abergele, was charged at the instance of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with cruelly ill-treating and torturing a horse in putting it to death on the 17th September last. Mr. Chamberlain, who prosecuted, stated that the mare in question had been running all day at the Llandudno Races, and towards the close of the rnces in jumping a hurdle, she broke her leg above the hock. Defendant, being present, was called upon to kill her, but in doing so he acted in such a manner as to cause the mare extreme and unnecessary pain. The defendant first plunged a penknife into the horse's throat, and this not proving effectual, he struck the animal two heavy blows with a large mallet. After all these attempts, the mare actually got up and walked, and the whole time, from the first wound by defendant to the actual death of the mare, extended over three-quarters of an hour.

John Johnson, inspector for the Society, said that on the 17th ult. he saw the accident to the mare at Llandudno Races. Seeing defendant he asked him if the mare's leg was broken, to which defendant replied yes. Defendant also said that they were going to remove the mare, whereupon witness said if they did he would prosecute for cruelty. Later, seeing the owner of the mare, witness asked him what he was going to do with it. The defendant came up at that moment, and told witness to leave it alone as he (defendant) was the adviser there, and it had nothing to do with witness. A few minutes afterwards ropes were brought, and the mare was "cast." The defendant then took a small penknife and inserted it in the side of the horse's neck, causing the blood to flow. After that the horse got up, and threw a man who was sitting on its head. The mare also kicked and plunged about for about half an hour. Defendant afterwards took a wooden mallet and struck the mare twice on the head with it. That dazed the animal a little, and the defendant left the field. The horse got on its feet after that, and was ultimately despatched by a butcher named Parry. It was exactly fifty-five minutes from the beginning till the horse died.

Other witnesses were called to corroborate Johnson's statement, including a man named Jackson, described as a horse-breaker, who, though it was stated he could speak English, insisted on giving his evidence in Welsh. Jackson stated in the course of his evidence that he saw the mare, and that her legs were tied, but afterwards denied positively that she was tied.

At the conclusion of his examination by Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Henderson, who defended, said: I don't wish to ask this witness any questions.

Mr. Chamberlain (warmly): And I may say that I do not rely on this man at all. There is only one epithet to be applied to him, and he should be turned out of court.

The Presiding Magistrate: Neither do I. I don't believe him a bit.

Witness then addressed some remarks to the Bench, but was sharply told that if he did not keep quiet he would be turned out of court. As it was he was escorted outside the court by a police officer.

After an adjournment for lunch, Mr. Henderson opened the case for the defence, arguing that it was not likely that a person of the defendant's standing would wilfully act cruelly under the circumstances, and contending that unless culpable cruelty had been used there was no case against his client. He would bring conclusive evidence to prove—first, that the horse was not so long in dying as had been asserted; secondly, that its death was brought about in a proper manner; and, further, that though it struggled and kicked (which did not necessarily imply conscious pain), the manner of putting it to death—namely, by bleeding—was the most painless one that could have been adopted.

Evidence was given by Mr. C. A. Hartley and others as to the mare not having been touched up to a little after six o'clock.

John Roberts, the owner of the horse, stated that he left the field at 6.30 precisely to catch the 6.40 train. He caught the train. The mare was dead when he left the field.

Cross-examined: He thought the use of the mallet was proper.

Robert Owen, horse-dealer, saw the horse killed, and thought it was scientifically done. He saw the defendant cut the horse's throat, and put his hand in the wound, when the blood came out freely.

Edward Jackson, who held the horse's head at the time, also expressed the opinion that the defendant had done his work properly.

Thomas Greaves, Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, said he had practised fifty-five years. He was engaged by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and had been President at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. From the evidence he had heard, he considered that the horse had been put to death in a proper manner. The fact that the blood came out in jerks, as stated by some of the witnesses for the prosecution, was proof that the carotid artery had been cut.

Professor William Williams, Principal of the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh, also considered the horse had been properly killed.

This was the whole of the evidence, and the magistrates retired.

On their return into court, Dr. Williams said they had decided to dismiss the case (applause in court, which was at once suppressed), but wished to express the opinion that a more expeditious method should have been used in putting the animal to death, though they did not think that the method adopted amounted to cruelty according to the Act.

A correspondent send us these remarks on the case from a "Society" paper:

"The case was heard before two magistrates, one a local doctor and the other an ex-linendraper. This was the conclusion they arrived at. The Bench had decided to dismiss the case, but they thought a more expeditious way ought to have been used to kill the animal. If the poor mare could have been put in the box, she would probably have asked for a lenient sentence on the latter, and the utmost rigour of the law for the penknife jobber. No wonder that wickedness and cruelty still flourish in the land while we have such great unpaid incapables!"

And comments as follows:

When will the veterinary profession learn that it is easier to kill a patient by accident than intentionally, and that when the practitioner assumes the *rôle* of the knacker it is not only at the sacrifice of considerable dignity, and the disgust of the on-looker? The only occasion on which it is permissible for a veterinary surgeon to destroy a horse is when no duly qualified individual can be found to carry it out, but the destruction should be effected by *shot gun*, and not by knife, large or small, mallet, hammer, or axe. Nothing should induce us to resort to these vile methods of destruction, which are only suited to the person whose duty in life is to take life, and not to save it.—Yours truly.

BUCK-SHOT.

PROSECUTION BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS.

This was a prosecution by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons against Henry Cozens, of Slough, shoeing smith, under the 17th section of the Veterinary Surgeons' Act, for describing himself as a veterinary surgeon, and was heard at the Petty Sessions at Slough, on the 21st October, 1891.

In April 1891, the defendant gave evidence on behalf of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in a prosecution by them at Slough for cruelty to a horse, and he in the witness box stated upon oath, in answer to the magistrates' clerk, that he did practice as a vet.

Mr. Colam, barrister, appeared for the prosecution, and stated that the College did not press for a heavy penalty, but desired the infliction of such a penalty as would deter others from committing a like offence.

Mr. Lovegrove, the magistrate's clerk, produced the depositions, and proved the case.

The defendant was represented by Mr. Smith, solicitor, who, on his behalf, raised objections, first, as to the date when the information was laid, and, secondly, as to the form of the summons, both of which were overruled by the magistrates. He then pleaded that the defendant made the statement inadvertently and without thinking of what he was saying; and that if his client was guilty at all he was guilty merely of a technical offence; and he asked the magistrates not to inflict any penalty.

The magistrates consulted together, and delivered their judgment, convicting the defendant of the offence. They stated that they thought the College were quite right in prosecuting, but at the same time they did not believe that the defendant intentionally committed the offence, and therefore they thought that the justice of the case would be met by a fine of 1s. and costs, but such costs were only to be court fees (14s.); as, if they made the defendant pay the costs of the prosecution, it would be inflicting on him a much heavier penalty than they intended. They stated that they hoped this would be a warning to defendant and others, and that although the statement made by defendant did not deceive them, as they all knew him, still he had no right to say that he was practising as a vet.

A Civil Veterinary Department for India.

A scheme for the establishment of a Civil Veterinary Department in India has reached England, and is now under consideration at the India Office. It is proposed that every province shall be equipped with a veterinary officer, or officer selected from the Army Veterinary Department, for organisation of measures to educate natives in veterinary science, to deal with cattle disease, and to facilitate and extend horse-breeding operations. For this last purpose the officers of the present Horse-Breeding Department will be incorporated in the Civil Veterinary Department. The total number of officers required is 18, of whom 10 are already at work in some of the provinces. Eight new officers have been applied for to strengthen the Army Veterinary Staff. Mr. Hallen will be in charge of the civil veterinary operations so long as he remains in the service. The provinces most affected will be Bengal and the North-Western Provinces. In the former there is now no veterinary officer at all.—*Army and Navy Gazette*

Volunteer Surgeons as Mounted Officers.

Humerus asks for information on the following points:—"I am a surgeon of several years standing to a Volunteer Artillery Corps. We have two batteries, one of which has guns of position. I am not attached to one battery more than the other. Should I consider myself a mounted officer, and as such wear spurs and a sabretache, and, if I choose, be mounted on parade? I am told not; only the captain, subalterns, and veterinary surgeons are mounted officers. So that, I suppose, the veterinary surgeon must be a superior officer to the surgeon. Then, again, at another time I am told that when doing duty with the guns of position I am a mounted officer, wear spurs, etc.; but when on duty with the other battery, as, for example, when in camp, I must take off my spurs and occupy a back seat. My contention is, either I am always a mounted officer, or never.—*British Medical Journal.*

Treatment of Actinomycosis.

Dr. Kòttnitz (*Deutsche med. Wochenschr.*, September 3rd, 1891) records the marked success with which he treated actinomycosis by cauterisation with solid nitrate of silver. One case had been very chronic, numerous recurrent deposits taking place which required incision, and formed chronic fistulæ. No treatment appeared of any avail until nitrate of silver was applied to the abcess cavities and fistulæ. Three other cases were also cauterised in similar fashion after opening of the abscesses, a speedy cure being obtained in each instance. Dr. Kòttnitz suggests that the actinomyces may possibly be exceedingly sensitive to certain reagents, nitrate of silver being one of them.

Medicine and Pharmacy.

Pharmacy and medicine says *The Chemist and Druggist* are closely associated, yet not united. The one stands at the head of the shopkeeping callings as a trading craft, with a sufficient degree of culture about it to give it a professional air; the other is a profession whose nobility is only jeopardised by the personal shortcomings and commercialism of some of its votaries.

The medical profession will always have a certain fascination for those who have experience in pharmacy. It is the higher degree of development, pharmaceutical knowledge being the best foundation for medical training. It is the modern analogue of the almost extinct medical apprenticeship.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"OUR TITLE."

MR. EDITOR,

The term Registered Practitioner by itself has no meaning and would give the general public no idea what a man's trade or profession is.

I take it that the words Registered Practitioner are an abbreviation of Registered Practitioner of Veterinary Surgery, therefore a Registered Practitioner must be a Veterinary Surgeon, and allowed to designate himself as such; but "what's in a name?"

In this district (Midland) and where country people are the majority of our clients we are all alike, qualified and unqualified, generally known as Farriers, a name to which individually I have no particular objection.

I think it has a fine old aristocratic flavour about it, and is far preferable to that abominable word "Vet.," to which nine times out of ten "Veterinary Surgeon" becomes corrupted. The fact is the pronunciation of the word Veterinary proves a stumbling block to most people, and I think it unfortunate that when our Charter was first granted some better word to designate us could not have been chosen, say for instance Farrier Surgeon.

And now, Mr. Editor, that I am writing, I should like to ask you can nothing be done to stop the disgraceful system of advertising that is carried on by some members of our profession.

In this part of the country one of the forms it takes is as follows:—In provincial towns, on market days, the principal or his agents visit the various hotels where farmers most do congregate distributing broadcast pamphlets on the treatment of diseases, also blotting pads for cheque books, on which are printed the wonderful virtues of the medicines, etc., sold by Mr. Blank, M.R.C.V.S.

By means of standing drinks and offers of advice gratis on all cases where these medicines are used, a brisk business is soon done, and yet, Mr. Editor, we call ours a profession.

If space permitted I could give you a neat specimen of advertising by a F.R.C.V.S.

SIR,

I am rather surprised at your foot-note to my last letter. I hardly think it is necessary for me to quote any more chapters and verses to prove the right to our title after what has already appeared in your columns, as no evidence has been put forward to show that "existing Practitioners" have any right to call themselves "Veterinary Surgeons."

I suppose you will admit that the Charter of 1844, conferred upon M.R.C V.S. and those holding the Certificate of the Highland and Agricultural Society the exclusive right to the title "Veterinary Surgeon?" Can you point to anything in the Act of 1881 which deprives us of that right? or which authorises "existing Practitioners" to call themselves such? If the latter is entitled to this, why is he placed on a separate Register? From whence does he get the necessary qualification?

I am, yours faithfully,

Oxford, 27th Oct. JAS. P. S. WALKER.

DEAR SIR,

In your issue of October 24th, you make an assertion at the conclusion of Mr. Walker's letter that chapter and verse have not been furnished with regard to Registered Practitioners assuming the title Veterinary Surgeon.

In our Charter 1844, it lucidly states, after the usual legal preamble:—"That the members of the said body politic and corporate solely and exclusively of all other persons whomsoever shall be deemed and taken and recognised to be members of the said profession or professors of the said art, and shall be individually known and *distinguished* by the name or title of Veterinary Surgeon." Confirmation of this is readable in the Veterinary Surgeons' Act, 1881.

The line of defence assumed by "Hereditary Vet" would lead one to imagine that his progenitors were registered practioners, if not, I fail to see why a member should pursue a path diametrically opposite to his own interests by seeking to uphold what cannot legitimately be theirs.

Very faithfully yours,

J. RANDOLPH WELSBY, M.R.C.V.S.

Longton, Staffordshire, 27th Oct.

THE TITLE OF "VETERINARY SURGEON."

["It is a dirty bird that fouls its own nest," and we hope we shall never be blameable for injuring the profession. We always regret even to *appear* to be opposed to the interests of the body corporate, but it is not our interest to claim more than our right. It is quite true that in 1844 a Royal Charter gave to practitioners who had studied at either the London or Edinburgh veterinary schools the sole and exclusive right of being recognised as members of the profession, and it also said that they "shall be individually known and distinguished by the name or title of veterinary surgeon." A charter, however, imposes no penalties, and practitioners who have not been at college called themselves veterinary surgeons, and practised as such. Probably an injunction in the High Courts might, in those days, have been obtained against them, but no one took such a step, and nearly forty years were allowed to pass before any effort was made to protect our title.

In 1881 we obtained an Act of Parliament which recognised our position and title, and gave a ready remedy against those who offended. By the Act we can prevent a man usurping our rights by taking him to a Magistrate's Court, and having him fined or imprisoned, but the Act refused to take from men who were in practice, and had for years been in practice, the name which they had used.

In Section 16 there is a distinct and unqualified statement that no one after the passing of the Act shall "take or use any name, title, addition or description . . . . . implying that he is a Fellow or Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons."

In Section 17 we have a further provision against misrepresentation. It prohibits any person, "other than a person who for the time being is on the Register of Veterinary Surgeons, or who at the time of the passing of the Act held the Veterinary Certificate of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland," from assuming the title of Veterinary Surgeon or Veterinary Practitioner, or any name, title, etc."

There is here a distinction made between the titles "Veterinary Surgeon" and "Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons." The latter title was given to no one who had not earned it; the former was denied to every one *in future* except those who earn it, but it was specially saved to those who *in the past* had adopted it.

The only possible confusion about the Act arises from a misunderstanding of the limits of our Register. The printed book provides for more than one list of names.

We find—

Register No. 1. List of Members of the R.C.V.S.
" " 2. Colonial and Foreign Veterinary Surgeons.
" " 3. List of existing Practitioners.

These are only parts of the whole. Together they form THE REGISTER, and every name "on the Register" carries the right to use the title Veterinary Surgeon. As if to make it impossible to misunderstand what was granted, a special clause of the Act says "No person registered under this Section (referring to existing Practitioners) shall be deemed to be a member of the said Royal College within the said Charters or this Act.

The Act of 1881 was a great boon. In a few years the members of the veterinary profession will feel the full effect of the privileges granted them. Meantime we must bear, as cheerfully as possible, the improved position which the Act gave to a number of men who had not the trouble and expense of gaining a diploma as we had. It is a little late in the day to grumble at what was done ten years ago, and it is wisest not to grasp at what is out of our reach.]

Re COMPENSATION FOR FARCY.

SIR,

I am surprised no comment has been made on the able article of W. H. "Compensation for Farcy," in your issue of the 10th ult. I am quite of his opinion as to slaughter and compensation for farcy, but that will not suffice unless glanders be included. What an anomaly! compensate for pleuro-pneumonia and swine fever but withold it for glanders, though the affected animal is probably worth much more and expect the owner, who is using it to get a living, to sacrifice his property *pro bono publico*.

Cases occur to me where horses have worked for months affected and yet not showing much, both glandered and farcied, and through such animals whole studs become infected quickly. There is no sudden or alarming outbreak—single cases keep cropping up in different types, the infection advances insidiously until the place is impregnated with virus and fit only to be burned.

These *Centres* of disease want rooting out, in our large towns especially, but they will remain until fair compensation is given.

I think W. H. has valued the infected horses quite high enough at £20, the majority would be less.

Faithfully yours,

Nonington, 26th Oct. CHARLES MORGAN, M.R.C.V.S.

COMMUNICATIONS, BOOKS, AND PAPERS RECEIVED:—Prof. F. Smith, Messrs. A. Leather, W. Awde, C. Morgan, J. P. S. Walker (Oxford), J. R. Welsby, R. R. Cole, "Liverpool Daily Post," "Abergele Visitor."

Veterinary Societies—Addresses.

BOMBAY V.M.A.

Pres
Hon. Sec: S. K. Nariman, Esq., M.D., B.S.C., L.V.SC.
Off Hon. Sec: Mr. J. D. Parokh, G.B.V.C., Bombay Vet. Coll.

BORDER COUNTIES V.M.S.

Pres: Mr. J. Howe, M.R.C.V.S., Keswick.
Hon. Sec: Mr. J. Armstrong, M.R.C.V.S., Penrith, Cumberland
Meetings, Second Friday of Feb., June, and October.

CALCUTTA V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. Greenhill, M.R.C.V.S.
Hon. Sec: Mr. T. Assheton Smith, 156 Dhurrumtollah.

CENTRAL V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. F. G. Samson, M.R.C.V.S., Upper Green, Mitcham, Surrey.
Hon. Sec: Mr. H. G. Rogers, M.R.C.V.S., 170 Brompton Road, London, S.W.
Meetings, First Thursday in each month, except August and September, First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, at 7 p.m

EASTERN COUNTIES V·M.A.

Pres: Mr. Wm. Bower, M.R.C.V.S., East Rudham, Swaffham.
Hon. Sec.: Mr. R. S. Barcham, M.R.C.V.S., North Walsham.
Meetings, Second Tuesday, Feb. and July.

VET. MED. ASSN. OF IRELAND.

Pres: Mr. C. Steel, F.R.C.V.S., 188 Clonliffe-road, Dublin.
Hon. Sec: Mr. J. McKenny, M.R.C.V.S., 116 Stephens-green-west, Dublin.

LANCASHIRE V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. A. Leather, F.R.C.V.S., Tariff-street, Liverpool.
Hon. Sec: Mr. G. Gartside Mayor, F.R.C.V.S., Kirkham, Preston.
Meetings, 2nd Wednesday in March, June, Sept., & Dec.

LINCOLNSHIRE V.M.S.

Pres: Mr. F. L. Gooch, F.R.C.V.S., Stamford, Lincolnshire
Hon. Sec: Mr. J. Smith, M.R.C.V.S., Huntingdon.
Meetings, Second Thursday, Feb., June and October.

MIDLAND COUNTIES V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. John Malcolm, F.R.C.V.S., Holiday-street Wharf, Birmngham.
Hon. Sec: Mr. H. J. Dawes, M.R.C.V.S., High St,. West Bromwich.
Meetings, Second Friday in Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.

NATIONAL VET. ASSOCIATION.

Pres: Prof. J. McCall, Veterinary College, Buccleuch St., Glasgow
Sec: Mr. John Malcolm, F.R.C.V.S., Birmingham.
Treas. and Chairman of Prov. Com: Mr. S. Wragg, F.R.C.V.S., 17 Church-lane, Whitechapel.

NORTH OF ENGLAND V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. A. Hunter, F.R.C.V.S., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Hon. Sec: Mr. W. A. Hancock, M.R.C.V.S., Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Meetings, Third Friday, Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.

ROYAL COUNTIES V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. W. Wilson, F.R.C.V.S., Berkhampstead, Herts.
Hon. Sec: Mr. H. Kidd, F.R.C.V.S., Hungerford, Berks.
Meetings, Last Friday, Feb., June and Nov.

ROYAL SCOTTISH V.S.

Pres: Mr. Reid, M.R.C.V.S., Auchtermuchty.
Hon. Sec: Mr. W. D. Fairbairn, M.R.C.V.S., Cupar, Fifeshire

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE M.A.

Pres: Prof. J. Penberthy.
Hon. Sec: Prof. J. Macqueen.

SCOTTISH METROPOLITAN V.M.S.

Pres: Mr. Jas. Clarke, F.R.C.V.S., Coupar-Angus.
Hon. Sec: Mr. P. Moir, M.R.C.V.S., 9 Kilmain Terr. Edinbro'

SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH YORKSHIRE V.M.A.

Pres. & Hon. Sec: Mr. W. Awde, F.R.C.V.S., Stockton-on-Tees.
Assistant Hon. Sec: Mr. W. N. Dobbing, M.R.C.V.S.
Meetings, First Friday, Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES V.M.S.

Pres: Mr. E. A. Hollingham, M.R.C.V.S., 79 Anerley Road, London, S.E.
Hon. Sec: Mr. C. Pack, M.R.C.V.S., Lymington, Hants.
Meetings, Last Thursday, Mar., June and Sept.

WESTERN COUNTIES V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. W. Penhale, F.R.C.V.S., Barnstaple, Devon.
Hon. Sec: Mr. W. Harvey Bloye, M.R.C.V.S., Week Street, Plymouth.
Meetings, Third Thursday, March and September.

WEST OF SCOTLAND V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. D. Allan, M.R.C.V.S., Clarkston-by-Busby, Glasgow
Hon. Sec: Mr. W. Anderson, F.R.C.V.S., West Nile-st. Glasgow

YORKSHIRE V.M.A.

Pres: Mr. T. C. Toope, M.RC.V.S., Knaresborough.
Hon. Sec: W. F. Greenhalgh, M.R.C.V.S., Hunslet, Leeds.
Meetings, Last Friday in Jan., April, July, and October.